

REMARKS

Accompanying this amendment is a request for a three-month extension of time to respond to the office action along with an authorization to charge the government fees to our deposit account.

Claims 1 – 13 have been cancelled. New claims 14 – 22 have been submitted for consideration of the examiner.

Newly submitted independent claim 14 has been amended to more clearly define the coverage of the claim by specifying the nature of the interlocking assembly. It is submitted that the cited art does not teach or suggest the structure called for in independent claim 14 which includes a first locking part 5, 6 of a first edge region 3. The locking part includes a recessed region 9 which faces downwardly. A second locking part 13, 15 of a second edge region 11 comprises an upward projection 15 from the bottom surface of the second edge region, with the recessed region 9a having a concave shape and wherein the upward projection has a convex shape. A moisture drainage channel 19 includes a channel mouth above the upward projection, a laterally extending head portion 6a which penetrates through the channel mouth and which rocks upwardly into a moisture blocking position within the moisture drainage channel 19 as the recessed region 9 of the first locking part of the first edge region is interlocked with the upward projection of the second locking part of the second edge region. The remaining newly submitted claims depend from claim 14 and for the foregoing reasons are allowable over the cited references.

For the above reasons, it is believed that the newly submitted claims 14 - 22 distinguish from the references cited by the examiner. Accordingly, a consideration and allowance of these claims are requested.

Date: April 11, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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